

CON

3. Opinion, generally in a sense of contempt; fancy; imagination; fantastical notion.
I know not how *conceit* may rob
The treasury of life, when life itself
Yields to the theft. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*
Strong *conceits*, like a new principle, carries all easily with
it, when yet above common sense.
Malbranche has an odd *conceit*,
As ever enter'd Frenchman's pate. *Prior.*
4. Opinion in a neutral sense.
Seest thou a man wise in his own *conceit*? There is more
hope of a fool than of him. *Prov. xxvi. 12.*
I shall not fail to approve the fair *conceit*
The king hath of you. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*
5. A pleasant fancy.
His wit is as thick as Tewksbury mustard: there is no more
conceit in him than in a mallet. *Shakespeare's Henry IV. p. ii.*
While he was on his way to the gibbet, a freak took him in
the head to go off with a *conceit*. *L'Estrange.*
6. Sentiment, as distinguished from imagery.
And glitt'ring thoughts struck out at ev'ry line. *Pope.*
7. Fondness; favourable opinion; opinionative pride.
Since by a little studying in learning, and great *conceit* of
himself, he has lost his religion; may he find it again by
harder study under humbler truth. *Bentley.*
8. Out of *CONCEIT* with. No longer fond of.
Not that I dare assume to myself to have put him out of *conceit*
with it, by having convinced him of the fantasticalness of
it. *Tillotson, Preface.*
What hath chiefly put me out of *conceit* with this moving
manner, is the frequent disappointment. *Swift.*
- TO CONCEIT. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To conceive; to imagine;
to think; to believe.
One of two bad ways you must *conceit* me,
Either a coward, or a flatterer. *Shakespeare's Julius Caesar.*
They looked for great matters at their hands, in a cause
which they *conceited* to be for the liberty of the subject. *Bacon.*
He *conceits* himself to be struck at, when he is not so much
as thought of. *L'Estrange.*
The strong, by *conceiting* themselves weak, are thereby rendered
as unactive, and consequently as useless, as if they really
were so. *South's Sermons.*
- CONCEITED. *participle, adj.* [from *conceit*.]
1. Endowed with fancy.
He was of countenance amiable, of feature comely, active of
body, well spoken, pleasantly *conceited*, and sharp of wit.
Kneller's History of the Turks.
2. Proud; fond of himself; opinionative; affected; fantastical.
There is another extreme in obscure writers, which some
empty *conceited* heads are apt to run into, out of a prodigality
of words, and a want of sense. *Pelton on the Claffick.*
If you think me too *conceited*,
Or to passion quickly heated.
What you write of me, would make me more *conceited* than
what I scribble myself. *Pope.*
3. With *of* before the object of conceit.
Every man is building a several way, impotently *conceited* of
his own model and his own materials. *Dryden.*
If we consider how vicious and corrupt the Athenians were,
how *conceited* of their own wit, science, and politeness. *Bentley.*
- CONCEITEDLY. *adv.* [from *conceited*.] Fancifully; whimsically.
Conceitedly dress her, and be assign'd
By you fit place for every flower and jewel;
Make her for love fit fuel. *Donne.*
- CONCEITEDNESS. *n. f.* [from *conceited*.] Pride; opinionative-
ness; fondness of himself.
When men think none worthy esteem but such as claim
under their own pretences, partiality and *conceitedness* makes
them give the pre-eminence. *Collier on Pride.*
- CONCEITLESS. *adj.* [from *conceit*.] Stupid; without thought;
dull of apprehension.
Think't thou, I am so shallow, so *conceitless*,
To be seduced by thy flattery. *Shakespeare's Two Gent. of Verona.*
- CONCEIVABLE. *adj.* [from *conceive*.]
1. That may be imagined or thought.
If it were possible to contrive an invention, whereby any
conceivable weight may be moved by any *conceivable* power with
the same quickness by the hand, without other instrument,
the works of nature would be too much subjected to art.
Wilkins's Math. Magick.
2. That may be understood or believed.
The freezing of the words in the air in the Northern climes,
is as *conceivable* as this strange union.
It is not *conceivable* that it should be indeed that very person,
whose shape and voice it assumed. *Atterbury's Sermons.*
- CONCEIVABLENESS. *n. f.* [from *conceivable*.] The quality of
being conceivable.
CONCEIVABLY. *adv.* [from *conceivable*.] In a conceivable or
intelligible manner.
TO CONCEIVE. *v. a.* [from *concevoir*, Fr. *concipere*, Latin.]

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1. To admit into the womb.
I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother *conceive*
me. *Psalms li. 5.*
2. To form in the mind; to imagine.
Nebuchadnezzar hath *conceived* a purpose against you. *Jer.*
3. To comprehend; to understand. *He conceives the whole
system.*
This kiss, if it durst speak,
Would stretch thy spirits up into the air:
Conceive, and fare thee well. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*
4. To think; to be of opinion.
If you compare my gentlemen with Sir John, you will
hardly *conceive* him to have been bred in the same climate. *Sw.*
- TO CONCEIVE. *v. n.*
1. To think; to have an idea of.
The griev'd commons
Hardly *conceive* of me: let it be not'd,
That, through our intercession, this revokement
And pardon comes. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*
Conceive of things clearly and distinctly in their own natures;
conceive of things completely in all their parts; *conceive* of
things comprehensively in all their properties and relations;
conceive of things extensively in all their kinds; *conceive* of
things orderly, or in a proper method. *Watts's Logic.*
2. To become pregnant.
The flocks should *conceive* when they came to drink. *Gen.*
The beauteous maid, whom he beheld, possess'd:
Conceiving as she slept, her fruitful womb
Swell'd with the founder of immortal Rome. *Addison.*
- CONCEIVER. *n. f.* [from *conceive*.] One that understands or
apprehends.
Though heretofore prudent symbols and pious allegories be
made by wiser *conceivers*, yet common heads will fly unto su-
perstitious applications. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. 7. c. 1.*
- CONCEPT. *n. f.* [from *conceptus*, Latin.]
1. Concept of voices; harmony; concord of sound.
It is to be considered, that whatsoever virtue is in num-
bers, for conducting to *concept* of notes, is rather to be ascribed
to the ante-number than to the entire number. *Bacon.*
2. Consistency.
'Tis in *concept* to his own principles, which allow no mea-
rit, no intrinsic worth to accompany one state more than
another. *Atterbury.*
- TO CONCENTRATE. *v. a.* [from *concentratus*, Fr. from *con* and
centrum, Lat.] To drive into a narrow compass; to drive
towards the center.
Spirit of vinegar, *concentrated* and reduced to its greatest
strength, will coagulate the serum. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*
- CONCENTRATION. *n. f.* [from *concentrate*.] Collection into a
narrow space round the center; compression into a narrow
compass.
All circular bodies, that receive a *concentration* of the light,
must be shadowed in a circular manner. *Peacocks on Drawing.*
- TO CONCENTRE. *v. n.* [from *concentratus*, Fr. from *con* and *centrum*,
Latin.] To tend to one common centre; to have the same
centre with something else.
The bricks having first been formed in a circular mould,
and then cut, before their burning, into four quarters or more,
the sides afterwards join so closely, and the points *concentrate* so
exactly, that the pillars appear one intire piece. *Watson.*
All these are like to many lines drawn from several objects,
that some way relate to him, and *concentrate* in him. *Hale.*
- TO CONCENTRE. *v. a.* To emit towards one centre.
The having a part left to animate, will rather serve to *con-
centre* the spirits, and make them more active in the rest.
Decay of Piety.
- In these *concentrating* all their precious beams
Of sacred influence! *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. 9. l. 106.*
- CONCENTRIC. *adj.* [from *concentricus*, Lat.] Having one com-
mon centre.
If, as in water stirr'd, more circles be
Produc'd by one, love such additions take;
Those, like so many spheres, but one heav'n make;
For they are all *concentrick* unto thee. *Donne.*
Any substance, pitched steadily upon two points, as on an
axis, and moving about on that axis, also describes a circle
concentrick to the axis. *Moxon's Mach. Exerc.*
If the crystalline humour had been *concentrick* to the scle-
roides, the eye would not have admitted a whole hemisphere
at one view. *Ray on the Creation.*
If a stone be thrown into stagnating water, the waves ex-
cited thereby continue some time to arise in the place where the
stone fell into the water, and are propagated from thence into
concentrick circles upon the surface of the water to great
distances. *Newton's Opt.*
The manner of its concretion is by *concentrick* rings, like
those of an onion about the first kernel. *Arbutnot on Diet.*
Circular revolutions in *concentrick* orbs about the sun, or
other central body, could in no wise be attained without the
power of the Divine Arm. *Bentley's Sermons.*
- CONCEPTACLE. *n. f.* [from *conceptaculum*, Lat.] That in which any
thing is contained; a vessel. *There*

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- There is at this day resident, in that huge *conceptacle*, water
enough to effect such a deluge. *Woodward's Nat. Hist. Pref.*
- CONCEPTIBLE. *adj.* [from *conceptio conceptum*, Latin.] That
may be conceived; intelligible; capable to be understood.
Some of his attributes, and the manifestations thereof, are
not only highly delectable to the intellective faculty, but are
most suitable and easily *conceptible* by us, because apparent in
his works. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*
- CONCEPTION. *n. f.* [from *conceptio*, Latin.]
1. The act of conceiving, or quickening with pregnancy.
I will greatly multiply thy sorrow, and thy *conception*; in
sorrow thou shalt bring forth children. *Gen. iii. 16.*
Thy sorrow I will greatly multiply
By thy *conception*; children thou shalt bring
In sorrow forth. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. x. l. 194.*
2. The state of being conceived.
Joy had the like *conception* in our eyes,
And at that instant, like a babe, sprung up. *Shakespeare.*
Our own productions flatter us: it is impossible not to be
fond of them at the moment of their *conception*. *Dryden's Dufresne.*
3. Notion; idea; image in the mind.
As *conceptions* are the images or resemblances of things to
the mind within itself, in the like manner are words or names
the marks, tokens, or resemblances of those *conceptions* to the
minds of them whom we converse with. *South's Sermons.*
Consult the acutest poets and speakers, and they will confess
that their quickest, most admired *conceptions* were such as darted
into their minds, like sudden flashes of lightning, they knew
not how, nor whence; and not by any certain consequence,
or dependence of one thought upon another, as it is in mat-
ters of ratiocination. *South's Sermons.*
To have right *conceptions* about them, we must bring our
understandings to the inflexible natures and unalterable rela-
tions of things, and not endeavour to bring things to any pre-
conceived notions of our own. *Locke.*
4. Sentiments; purpose.
Thou but remember'st me of my own *conception*. I have
perceived a most faint neglect of late; which I have rather
blamed as my own jealous curiosity, than as a very pretence
and purpose of unkindness. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*
Pleaze your highness, note
His dangerous *conception* in this point:
Not friendly by his wish to your high person,
His will is most malignant, and it stretches
Beyond you to your friends. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*
5. Apprehension; knowledge.
And as if beasts conceiv'd what reason were,
And that *conception* should distinctly show
They should the name of reasonable bear;
For, without reason, none could reason know. *Davies.*
6. Concept; sentiment; pointed thought.
He is too flatulent sometimes, and sometimes too dry;
many times unequal, and almost always forced; and, besides,
is full of *conceptions*, points of epigram, and witticisms; all
which are not only below the dignity of heroic verse, but
contrary to its nature. *Dryden's Juvenal, Dedication.*
- CONCEPTIOUS. *adj.* [from *conceptus*, Latin.] Apt to conceive;
fruitful; pregnant.
Common mother,
Enscar thy fertile and *conceptious* womb;
Let it no more bring out to ingrateful man. *Shakespeare's Timon.*
- CONCEPTIVE. *adj.* [from *conceptus*, Latin.] Capable to conceive.
In hot climates, and where the uterine parts exceed in heat,
by the coldness of this simple they may be reduced into a *con-
ceptive* constitution. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. vi. c. 7.*
- TO CONCERN. *v. a.* [from *concernere*, Fr. *concerno*, low Latin.]
1. To relate to; to belong to.
Exclude the use of natural reasoning about the sense of holy
scripture, concerning the articles of our faith; and then, that
the scripture doth *concern* the articles of our faith, who can
assure us? *Hooker, b. iii. f. 8.*
Count Claudio may hear; for what I would speak of *con-
cerns* him. *Shakespeare's Much ado about Nothing.*
Gracious things
Thou hast reveal'd; those chiefly which *concern*
Just Abraham, and his seed. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. xii.*
This place *concerns* not at all the dominion of one brother
over the other. *Locke.*
2. To affect with some passion; to touch nearly; to be of im-
portance to.
I would not
The cause were known to them it most *concerns*. *Shakespeare.*
Our wars with France have affected us in our most tender
interests, and *concerned* us more than those with any other
nation. *Addison on the State of the War.*
It much *concerns* them not to suffer the king to establish his
authority on this side. *Addison's Remarks on Italy.*
The more the authority of any station in society is ex-
tended, the more it *concerns* publick happiness that it be com-
mitted to men fearing God. *Rogers's Sermons.*
3. To interest; to engage by interest.
I knew a young negroe who was sick of the small-pox: I

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- found by enquiry, at a person's *concerned* for him, that the little
tumours left whitish specks behind them. *Boyle on Colours.*
- Above the rest two goddesses appear, *Dryden's Ec.*
Concern'd for each: here Venus, Juno there. *concerns* itself to
Providence, where it loves a nation, *concerns* itself to
own and assert the interest of religion, by blasting the spoilers
of religious persons and places. *South's Sermons.*
Whatever past actions it cannot reconcile, or appropriate
to that present self by consciousness, it can be no more *con-
cerned* in than if they had never been done. *Locke.*
They think themselves out of the reach of providence, and
no longer *concerned* to solicit his favour. *Rogers, Sermon ii.*
4. To disturb; to make uneasy.
In one compressing engine I shut a sparrow, without forcing
any air in; and in an hour the bird began to pant, and be *con-
cerned*, and in less than an hour and a half to be sick. *Derham.*
- CONCERN. *n. f.* [from the verb.]
1. Business; affair; considered as relating to some one.
Let early care thy main *concerns* secure. *Dnham.*
Things of less moment may delays endure.
This manner of exposing the private *concerns* of families,
and sacrificing the secrets of the dead to the curiosity of the
living, is one of those licentious practices, which might well
deserve the animadversion of our government. *Addison's Freeholder.*
A heathen emperor said, if the gods were offended, it
was their own *concern*, and they were able to vindicate them-
selves. *Swift.*
Religion is no trifling *concern*, to be performed in any careless
and superficial manner. *Rogers, Sermon xiii.*
2. Interest; engagement.
No plots th' alarm to his retirements give;
'Tis all mankind's *concern* that he should live. *Dryden.*
When we speak of the conflagration of the world, these
have no *concern* in the question. *Barnet's Theory of the Earth.*
3. Importance; moment.
Myfterious secrets of a high *concern*,
And weighty truths, solid convincing sense,
Explain'd by unaffected eloquence. *Roscommon.*
The mind is stunned and dazzled amidst that variety of ob-
jects: the cannot apply herself to those things which are of the
utmost *concern* to her. *Addison's Spectator, N. 465.*
4. Passion; affection; regard.
Ah, what *concerns* did both your souls divide!
Your honour gave us what your love deny'd. *Dryden.*
O Marcia, let me hope thy kind *concerns*,
And gentle wishes, follow me to battle! *Addison's Cato.*
Why all this *concern* for the poor? We want them not, as
the country is now managed: where the plough has no work,
one family can do the business of fifty. *Swift.*
- CONCERNING. *prep.* [from *concern*: this word, originally a participle,
has before a noun the force of a preposition.] Relating
to; with relation to.
There is not any thing more subject to error than the true
judgment *concerning* the power and forces of an estate. *Bacon.*
The ancients had no higher recourse than to nature, as may
appear by a discourse *concerning* this point in Strabo. *Brown.*
None can demonstrate that there is such an island as Ja-
maica, yet, upon testimony, I am free from all doubt *concerning*
it. *Tillotson, Preface.*
- CONCERNMENT. *n. f.* [from *concern*.]
1. The thing in which we are concerned or interested; affair;
business; interest.
To mix with thy *concernments* I desist
Henceforth, nor too much disapprove my own. *Milt. Agon.*
This shews how useful you have been,
To bring the king's *concernments* in. *Hudibras, p. iii. cant. 2.*
Yet when we're sick, the doctor's fetch in haste,
Leaving our great *concernment* to the last. *Denham.*
When my *concernment* takes up no more room or compass
than myself, then, so long as I know where to breathe and to
exist, I know also where to be happy. *South.*
He that is wise in the affairs and *concernments* of other men,
but careless and negligent of his own, that man may be said
to be busy, but he is not wise. *Tillotson.*
Our spiritual interests, and the great *concernments* of a future
state, would doubtless recur often. *Atterbury.*
Propositions which extend only to the present life, are
small, compared with those that have influence upon our ever-
lasting *concernments*. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*
2. Relation; influence.
Sir, 'tis of near *concernment*, and imports
No less than the king's life and honour. *Denham's Sophy.*
He justly fears a peace with me would prove
Of ill *concernment* to his haughty love. *Dryden's Emperor.*
3. Intercourse; business.
The great *concernment* of men is with men, one amongst
another. *Locke.*
4. Importance; moment.
I look upon experimental truths as matters of great *con-
cernment* to mankind. *Boyle.*
5. Interposition; regard; meddling.
He married a daughter to the earl, without any other ap-
probation